

and borders as a result of armed conflict. His advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society epitomized the ideals of liberty and justice that the American Bar Association so deeply values. His legacy of selflessness, courage and devotion to the refugee cause serve as an inspiration to all who value human rights. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

[From www.opendemocracy.net, Aug. 21, 2003]

ARTHUR HELTON: A TRIBUTE FROM
OPENDEMOCRACY

(By Caspar Henderson and David Hayes)

Arthur C. Helton, Director of Peace and Conflict Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and a regular columnist for openDemocracy, was killed in the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August. His colleague and co-columnist, Gil Loescher, was critically injured. Caspar Henderson and David Hayes pay tribute on behalf of openDemocracy.

The bomb attack on the headquarters of the United Nations operation in Baghdad on 19 August which killed the UN special representative in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, injured more than 100 and killed at least 18 other people. Among the dead was Arthur Helton, the co-columnist of openDemocracy's humanitarian monitor.

The other half of this openDemocracy partnership, Gil Loescher, was critically injured in the blast, and has been transferred to hospital in Germany, where, at the time of writing he is in a critical condition.

Arthur's death is a dreadful loss to his family, friends and colleagues. Our thoughts and condolences are with them. We are with Gil and his family in spirit too.

This tragedy impacts heavily on openDemocracy. Arthur was a good friend of this enterprise and one of the people who made it what it is. He and Gil first approached us with a project and a vision that chimed with what we wanted to do: to facilitate serious, constructive global conversation on key issues of our time. We built up a strong working relationship from which we never ceased to learn new things.

Arthur was a serious, indefatigable scholar with extraordinary range. He was warm and humorous too. I (Caspar Henderson) will not forget his kindness when I visited him in the grand premises of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York earlier this year, and the touch of irony with which he showed me a photographic tribute to his work in the hallway of the Pratt house. In contrast to pictures associated with many of his colleagues, which mainly showed important guys in suits and ties shaking hands or dramatic shots of military situations, Arthur's picture showed a refugee mother and child. "The token soft power guy around here" he joked.

Arthur and Gil's humanitarian monitor combined expert understanding of the many dimensions of humanitarian crises—legal, political, logistical, military, historical—with a willingness to think beyond current models. This search for complex and changing truths led them to interview many of the key figures in the field—from government ministers and UN administrators to refugees and asylum-seekers at the sharpest end of policy.

Because of their true seriousness and refusal to posture, their column reached out to and was read by influential actors and thinkers across a range of bodies and ways of looking at the world, including the military and academic communities, international institutions and activists. Sergio Vieira de Mello was an enthusiastic reader of their work on openDemocracy, recommending it warmly to

others (according to reports, Sergio and Arthur were meeting together when the bomb went off).

Arthur and Gil's columns for openDemocracy on Iraq were only part of their concern with crises of human displacement, food insecurity, health and shelter deprivation—and how these problems are dealt with (usually inadequately, and often without taking to heart the lessons of the past) by state, humanitarian and other organisations. There was huge and important work to be done here, and for openDemocracy's global membership to engage with. We had hardly begun.

We salute Arthur Helton. We will miss him very much. We commit ourselves to building on his work and helping to make real the better world to which he dedicated his life. There is much to do.

[From Human Rights Watch, Aug. 20, 2003]

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH MOURNS DEATH OF
REFUGEE ADVOCATE ARTHUR C. HELTON

Human Rights Watch mourns the loss of Arthur Helton, a leading advocate for refugees and internally displaced persons, who was among the victims of the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad.

Arthur Helton, director of peace and conflict studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, was a valued colleague and longtime friend to Human Rights Watch. He was among the small circle of advisors who first encouraged and supported Human Rights Watch's work on the rights of refugees and displaced persons. He was a member of the advisory committee of Human Rights Watch's Africa Division and provided ready advice on a wide range of refugee issues from Eastern Europe to North Korea. Despite his own busy schedule, he was generous with his time and expertise and his judgments were always measured, thoughtful and insightful.

But more than this, as head of the Refugee Program at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the Forced Migration Project at the Open Society Institute, and as a law professor at NYU and Columbia, Arthur Helton was an invaluable mentor to many Human Rights Watch staff members. He was a great friend to many of us, who found his acerbic wit a cheering tonic while battling official indifference.

His death is a loss not only to Human Rights Watch and other international organizations, but to the millions of refugees and displaced persons the world over who benefited, however unknowingly, from his hard-nosed and persuasive advocacy. Last year the increasingly slim and trim Arthur ran and completed the New York Marathon. On explaining his reason for going to Iraq, Arthur had insisted it was "to avoid running another marathon!"

Human Rights Watch extends its condolences to Arthur's wife Jacqueline Gilbert; and to his longtime assistant Marie Jeannot.

[From www.phrusa.org, Aug. 20, 2003]

PHR MOURNS THE LOSS OF LONGTIME
REFUGEE ADVOCATE ARTHUR C. HELTON

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mourns the loss of Arthur C. Helton, a great thinker and leader in the defense of refugee rights. Arthur Helton died in Tuesday's bomb attack on the UN office in Baghdad where he was scheduled to meet with the UN's Sergio Vieira de Mello, also killed in the blast.

"This is a devastating loss," said Susannah Sirkin, Deputy Director of Physicians for Human Rights. "Human rights and refugee advocates have lost one of the most knowledgeable, experienced, and dedicated experts defending men, women, and children displaced from their homes. The lives of count-

less people benefited immeasurably by Arthur's work."

A lawyer, human rights activist, and policy analyst, Arthur was the long-time director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights' Refugee Project. One of the foremost experts in refugee law, he founded the Forced Migration Project at the Open Society Institute in New York City. Most recently he served as the Director of Peace and Conflict Studies and senior fellow for refugee studies and preventative action at the Council of Foreign Relations.

Helton also contributed to PHR's publication Medical Victims of Torture: A Physicians Guide to Asylum Cases.

PHR staff expressed their personal appreciation for Arthur's deep commitment to improving the lives of those who have suffered untold misery, and their deepest condolences to his wife, Jacqueline, and his family and friends.

[From www.lirs.org]

LIRS AND ISS-USA MOURN LOSS OF GREAT
HUMANITARIAN

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and its subsidiary International Social Service, United States of America Branch (ISS-USA) join myriad human rights and immigrant advocates around the world in mourning the loss of Arthur C. Helton. A New York human rights lawyer who served as director of peace and conflict studies and senior fellow for refugee studies and preventative action for the Council on Foreign Relations, Arthur died in the August 19 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, where he had gone to assess humanitarian conditions. He was 54.

While mourning his loss, we are thankful for his long and generous friendship and service to our agencies, especially his service as chair of the board of directors for ISS-USA from 1994 through 2003.

Arthur's death is a tragic loss to refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people and to all those dedicated to peace and justice. A distinguished and prolific scholar, he was a citizen of the world with a deep understanding of geopolitical forces and realities. Arthur's visionary spirit was balanced with realism, and he was capable of responding to complex problems by mobilizing systemic change to dramatically alter daily life for millions. As a mentor and inspiration to many, his life was a catalyst for linking people across agencies, ideologies and borders. The memory of his life and work will continue to guide and inspire us.

Condolences may be sent to Arthur's widow, Ms. Jacqueline D. Gilbert, 245 7th Avenue, Apartment 10B, New York, N.Y. 10001

SENATOR VANCE HARTKE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to former Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana, who passed away this summer.

Throughout his three terms in the Senate, Vance Hartke was known for his tremendous energy, vision, and courage.

First elected to the Senate as part of the great Democratic class of 1958, Vance Hartke campaigned with legendary vigor and vim, visiting every county and town in Indiana and stopping to talk and listen to everyone who would stand still. He worked hard to benefit his home State, using his chairmanship of the Commerce Transportation Subcommittee to bring key road and rail projects to the Hoosier State.

Senator Hartke helped enact landmark legislation, including the progressive programs that made up President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society. Despite fierce opposition, he helped steer Medicare through Congress. He was the Senate's acknowledged champion of higher education and adult education, and he also helped lead the efforts to expand veterans benefits and establish Federal student loan programs.

In the mid-1960s, Senator Hartke put his political future on the line when he became one of the first Senators to oppose the war in Vietnam. In following his conscience, he parted ways with most of his constituents and his good friend President Johnson, but he stuck to his principles and survived a bruising reelection campaign in 1970.

Though Senator Hartke lost his Senate seat in 1976, he became a good friend and adviser to the man who defeated him, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, and he never lost his passion for politics or his home State.

Senator Vance Hartke served the people of Indiana and the U.S. Senate with great distinction. I am honored to add my voice to the chorus of praise for his life's work and legacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO STORM ROYAL

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and congratulate a special group of young Coloradans, the Colorado Storm Royal soccer team.

The Colorado Storm Royal is a team in the Under 12 age bracket, U12, and they are coached by Mr. Jim Morrison. Mr. Morrison has coached Colorado youth soccer for the past 17 years and 34 seasons, and has taken his teams to the Western Region tournament eight times. Out of those eight appearances, his teams have reached the final game four times, losing to California teams three previous times and then winning the Championship this past year.

The Colorado Storm Royal had a remarkable record the past 10-month period, with 35 wins and 0 losses. They played their games at the Premier 1 level, which in Colorado is the highest level of competitive youth soccer.

Their accomplishments are certainly commendable—Undeclared and untied in 35 straight Premier 1 games in Colorado; Colorado State Cup Champions, Western Regional Champions, and they were ranked No. 1 in the United States by National Soccer Rankings.com.

The members of this team are all Colorado residents whose families live and work in the Denver area. The commitment by all to make these accomplishments a reality is especially worth noting, because unlike other areas of the country where teams can practice 365 days of the year, we don't have that same luxury in Colorado. So the boys

and their families make a concentrated effort to not only remain active in school and throughout the community but also to get to a more limited practice schedule.

There are 16 individuals on the Colorado Storm Royal team, and I believe they deserve to be mentioned here today. They are: Anise Abdulgaseem, Junior Amaya, Cody Arnold, John Ellison, Matt Hammet, Matthew Hustead, Chris Klebieko, Tyler Lister, Andrew Love, Dirk MacDonald, Matthew Nier, Augustus Ogu, Ryan Rombach, Brendan Roslund, Peter Walker and Charlie Zeller.

To these outstanding young players, their families, their coaches, and their supporters, I offer my most sincere congratulations on a winning season and my best wishes for another outstanding season of Colorado soccer. They are examples of what hard work and determination bring when we set ourselves to achieving goals.●

IN TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GARRIS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this month George Garriss, the longest serving refuge manager in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced he will be retiring and I rise to salute him. There's no question in my mind that George has done more to protect the wildlife in my State than anyone I know. He is the Teddy Roosevelt of South Carolina.

For years George has been telling me he would retire as soon as he finished this one project. Then he would find another project—and the same thing, he was going to retire when it was done. This went on and on for years and years. It went on because George wanted to leave future generations something good. He pushed to save thousands of acres of natural habitats in my State. Years from now when we still enjoy South Carolina's natural beauty, we can thank George Garriss.

George began his productive career in the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1959, and today is the steward of four South Carolina Lowcountry refuges that he helped create or expand—the ACE Basin, the Santee and Waccamaw Refuges, and Cape Romain. He also successfully saved both the endangered red wolf and loggerhead sea turtles.

We will miss George, and I know all the Members of this body join me in thanking him for his esteemed public service and wishing him happiness and good health in the years ahead.●

VA MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CEMETERY SYSTEM

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate 30 years of the VA cemetery system. "Celebrate" may seem a strange word to use in reference to something so closely tied with mourning, but it is appropriate that we do just that. VA's national cemetery system is one of its

most precious resources, providing our veterans the final respect and honor they have earned.

VA's operation of the National Cemetery Administration dates from September 1, 1973, when Congress transferred control of the national cemeteries from the Department of Army to what was then the Veterans Administration. Those cemeteries joined the ones already operated by VA, and the National Cemetery System—now the National Cemetery Administration—was created.

America's history of providing a final resting place to our veterans extends back before 1973, when the Civil War left hundreds of thousands of soldiers dead. In the spirit of Abraham Lincoln's words that the Nation must "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan," Congress established national cemeteries in order to fulfill that commitment.

Today, the National Cemetery Administration ensures that our veterans have a proper burial and maintains the national cemeteries as shrines to their memory. Since taking over the national cemetery system, VA has seen an increase in annual burials from 36,400 to a record 89,300 in 2002. More and more veterans are choosing to be laid to rest in national cemeteries than ever before. This choice is a testament to the devotion that the employees of the VA's National Cemetery Administration show in performing their duties.

In noting the importance of the National Cemetery Administration and in honoring its extensive history, I must also point to the need to ensure its future. Nearly 655,000 veteran are expected to die this year, and even more will die in each of the next 5 years. By the end of 2004, only 64 of the 124 veterans national cemeteries will be available for both casketed and cremated remains. As cemetery capacity decreases, veterans in areas near those closing cemeteries lose access to burial options. In order to ensure that proper funeral honors are provided for veterans and their family members, we must develop new cemeteries and expand existing cemeteries. In such cities as Birmingham, AL; Bakersfield, CA; Columbia/Greenville, SC; Philadelphia, PA; and, in my own State, Sarasota and Jacksonville, FL, more than 175,000 veterans in each of these areas are currently without full burial options. We must ensure that their sacrifice is honored.

One of the most difficult things we do is cope with the death of someone we love. By guaranteeing a burial that benefits the sacrifice of our Nation's soldiers, the National Cemetery Administration mitigates some of that pain and commemorates the service and lives of our veterans.●